

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 8th Jan 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway (IG) Chairman, Joe Karmazyn (JK) Treasurer, Avril Mitchell (AM) Secretary, Tim Russell (TR), Tracey Merritt (TM), Sue Chewter (SC), Diane Matthews (DM), 8 branch members and guests Mike Leaming and Jeanette Edwards

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Steve Brough, David Godfrey, Milena, Hajcnz, Julie Karmazyn

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by our Chairman

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: TR, Seconded: Rick Bourne
2. Matters Arising: DM queried whether the Club had received a grant for the car park. TM to report.
3. Chairman's opening comments: IG welcomed us all and hoped we had a good Christmas and New Year, and thanked us all for coming out on such a cold evening. He welcomed our Guests – Mike Leaming and Jeanette Edwards, also a new member – Laura Wares.
4. Treasurer's Report for the period 06/11/25 to 08/01/26

O/Bal	£4218.60cr
Receipts	£ 25.00
Payments	£ 982.00
C/Bal	£3261.60cr

BFI + BPT accounts statements due in March

Report proposed JK, 2nd DM

5. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 5.1. The Black-Tie dinner was a great success, Tim thanked three Ian's - Greenway, Preston and Smoker, also Joe, Sue, Diane and Mark Taylor, for their help getting the room ready. We made £982 profit + £285 contactless from the raffle.
 - 5.2. Tim thanked his Poppy Appeal Team of Tracey, Chris B, Diane and Avril for ensuring the Poppy Appeal took place – they do an enormous amount that ensures things run smoothly.
 - 5.3. Tim thanked his volunteer collectors for all their efforts. A lack of volunteers for Hook meant he had to cover a lot of shifts making him the top collector for the appeal.
 - 5.4. We receive donations from many avenues and I wish to thank George Mars for the Freemasons donation of £452.70, Rick Bourne for his CWG talk with Mike Leaming at St Mary's £65.04, James and Flossie baked Brownies and raised £16.30, Diane £200 from a big on dated pins, Sue Wilson not only got the Ivy Club to donate 210.36 but also recruited another collector for us, she raised £182.99 in one session at Hook. Our three Youth Groups (new this year) and Band raised £2847.80. Steve Donnolly did a gig at the Bolton Arms and raised £102.82. Foreign coins converted to £101.70. Finally, Savers Chineham. Their HO has their only charity partner, but the staff at Chineham wanted to support us and made their own collection pot for us.
 - 5.5. Remembrance was observed beautifully, thank you Tracey for the lunch and we actually had police support this year. We raised £269 at the raffle and the church collection was £533.72
 - 5.6. Our totals are
Old Basing: Cash/Chq £14,950.29 + Contactless £11,088.58 + QR £326.00 = £26,364.87
Hook: Cash/Chq £9,070.35 + Contactless £15,229.35 + QR £229.00 = £24,528.70
The overall total so far is £50,893.57
6. Membership Report:

Currently 469 members with approx. 25 that need reminding to renew.
7. Club Report:

- 7.1. Tracey announced that the PC have granted the Club a whopping £64k grant to repair the car park and also have disabled toilet facilities. IG thanked Tracey for her efforts in ensuring this grant application was successful. The work will be likely to start in the Spring.
- 7.2. There will be a Race Night 7th Feb, cash only.

8. Correspondence:

The January editions of The Link and the Central News
The RBL Youth Policy which affects Parade Marshals and SB's in particular.
The Welfare Impact Report for last year
A newsletter from the BAHS with a focus on upcoming research in Old Basing.

9. A.O.B:

- 9.1. There will be a Black-Tie Poppy Launch on 24th Oct, other events will be discussed in Committee.
- 9.2. Steve Stork proposed the Branch donate up to £500 to the club for Christmas Draw prizes. Not Seconded. NFA
- 9.3. Steve Stork proposed we donate £50 to the Bar Staff for their sterling work over Christmas. Not Seconded. NFA
- 9.4. Steve Stork asked whether we could ensure that at the Remembrance Day Buffet, people took a 'women and children first' approach to being served as currently it is a bunfight.
- 9.5. Rick Bourne thank JK for sorting out the required paperwork for the PC to get our Flags donation under way.
- 9.6. There will be two Golf Days, in March and May. Details to follow.
- 9.7. We hope there will be a new vicar soon, interviews taking place in the next few weeks.
- 9.8. The Laying-Up of our standards in St Mary's is now waiting for a Faculty to be raised. The hanging position has been agreed in the church.
- 9.9. Jeanette Edwards from St Mary's Church presented a cheque to Tim Russell for the Poppy Appeal, this being 50% of the proceeds from the CWG talk at St Mary's.

The next Full Branch meeting will be on 5th February at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by a very interesting talk from Mike Leaming about the history of the CWG in Old Basing, and research that has been carried out on the 6 graves.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman